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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICERS

FOR THE YEAR 1955

G. W. MURRAY
M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

MARY FALLOWFIELD JOEL
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FIRST ASSISTANT SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE CORPORATION OF BLACKPOOL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your information my sixteenth annual report for the year 1955.

Routine medical inspections have continued and I am pleased to report an increase in the number of examinations done. Because of the ever-increasing number of special examinations for various purposes, it is impossible to do other than the statutory age groups. It is hoped, with the appointment of another assistant medical officer, to start periodic inspections of the seven-plus group. This is the best age at which to ascertain defects and arrange for treatment or special schooling, if necessary.

The standard of cleanliness remains satisfactory. To maintain this standard requires constant supervision by the School Nurses, but there are always a few persistent offenders.

During the year over 2,000 children were immunised or re-immunised against Diphtheria. The percentage of children immunised remains high and I am glad to report that we have not had a case of Diphtheria for several years.

The number of special examinations for Educationally Sub-normal and Mentally Handicapped children shows a definite increase. The classes of E.S.N. pupils established two years ago are of considerable help in dealing with this problem, but it is hoped that in the near future a complete day school for E.S.N. children may be opened.

I would draw your attention to the details in the report of the work of the Open Air School. It continues to serve a very special need.

I again take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chief Education Officer, his administrative staff, and the teachers in the schools, for their excellent help and co-operation at all times.

In conclusion, my thanks are also due to Dr. Joel (who started service with us in January) and Dr. Palser; to the Hospital Consultants for their advice and excellent liaison; and to the School Dental Officers, Child Guidance team, School Nurses and Clerical Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE W. MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Principal School Medical Officer.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Principal School Medical Officer

George W. Murray, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

First Assistant School Medical Officer

Mary Fallowfield Joel, M.B., Ch.B.
(*Commenced 6th January*)

Assistant School Medical Officer

J. E. J. Palser, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon

Thomas S. Blacklidge, M.D., D.O.M.S.

Child Psychiatrist (Part-time)

C. S. Parker, M.D., D.P.M.
(*Left 28th January*)
A. R. Grant, O.B.E., M.D., J.P.
(*Commenced 11th March*)

Educational Psychologist

Miss I. Bauminger, Ph.D.

Social Worker

Miss M. Eastham, M.A., F.R.A.I.
(*Left 31st March*)

Principal School Dental Officer

Marshall Smith, L.D.S., R.C.S.(Eng.)

Consultant Dental Surgeon (Part-time)

H. Ackers, M.B., F.D.S., R.C.S.E., R.F.C.S.

Dental Officers

J. S. Couper, L.D.S.(Edin.)
Mrs. J. Hopkinson, L.D.S.(Manchester)
R. Martyn, L.D.S.(Liverpool)

School Nurses

Miss E. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.S.S.Ch. (Senior Nurse) (*Left 31st August*)

Mrs. W. O'Gara, R.S.C.N., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (Senior Nurse *from 1st September*)

Miss R. Hickson, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Mrs. M. Harrap, S.R.N., M.S.S.Ch. (*On leave of absence*)

Miss E. Wolstencroft, S.R.N.

Mrs. J. Smith, S.R.N. (*Left 30th June*)

Miss E. W. Walker, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Miss L. M. Coward, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. (*Commenced 1st November*)

Miss P. Davenport, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Temporary School Nurse) (*Commenced 1st October*)

One vacancy

Speech Therapists

Miss B. J. Booth, L.C.S.T.

One vacancy

Physiotherapist

Vacant

Teacher of Lip Reading (Part-time)

Miss M. Sandiford, B.A. (Univ. Cert. for Teachers of the Deaf, Manchester University)

Clerical Staff

Mrs. B. McKenna (formerly Wilkinson) (Senior Clerk)

Miss J. Sheare Mrs. E. Briggs Miss I. Sealey

Mrs. K. Berry (*nee* Walker) (*Left 28th May*)

Miss A. Ashton-Rigby Miss D. Whittaker (*Commenced 17th January*)

Miss A. Carr (*Commenced 31st May*)

Miss B. Jackson (*Commenced 27th June*)

Dental Attendants

Miss C. Banks Miss E. G. Cutler

Mrs. G. J. Dodd Miss M. Hoggan

Hygiene Assistant

Miss J. Kirkman

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL

Area of Borough (including foreshore) (acres)	10,580
Population (Registrar-General's latest official estimate)	147,500

	No. of Schools	No. of Pupils
Technical College (full-time students)	1	546
Secondary Grammar	3	1,574
Independent Secondary Grammar	4	1,451
Secondary Technical	1	794
Secondary Modern	8	3,758
Primary	33	10,522
Non-Reorganised	2	907
Open Air	1	46
Private and Preparatory	13	1,048
Total	66	20,646

CO-ORDINATION

An excellent liaison continues to exist between the School Medical service and the Public Health Department. Infant Welfare records and Immunisation records are sent to the School Clinic when the child attains the age of five years. In addition to this, children with handicaps in any category are notified after the age of two years to the School Medical Officer, so that they may be seen and ascertained for any particular special schooling, if necessary, before reaching school age.

The Physiotherapy department still gives invaluable assistance to the School Medical Service with regard to Breathing Exercises and Sunlight. It is hoped, with the establishment of a Physiotherapist in the School Health Service, that more remedial work will be done, especially in the Orthopaedic field.

There has been excellent co-operation by all the Schools, and the School Welfare Service, with the School Medical Service. This is invaluable to the efficient running of the medical services.

STAFF

The staff of the School Medical Service is set out on a previous page.

Dr. Joel started duties as First Assistant School Medical Officer in January, in succession to Dr. Wright.

Nurse Jones, the Senior Nurse, retired in August, after a service to the Local Authority of 31 years. Nurse O'Gara, a fully qualified School Nurse and Health Visitor, succeeded her in September as Senior Nurse.

Nurse Harrap was granted one year's leave of absence, and Nurse Davenport was appointed temporarily in her place.

Nurse Coward, a fully qualified School Nurse and Health Visitor, was appointed and took up her duties on 1st November.

There is still one vacancy in staff for a School Nurse at the end of the year.

Dr. Parker relinquished his part-time appointment as Consultant Psychiatrist in the Child Guidance Clinic, and Dr. Grant was appointed to succeed him in March.

The posts of Physiotherapist, Psychiatric Social Worker, and second Speech Therapist are still vacant.

SCHOOL HYGIENE

During the year redecorating has been carried out as follows:—

Exterior

Hawes Side Primary School.
Stanley Infant School (including prefabricated classrooms).
Highfield Secondary Modern, Boys and Girls (including Lostock Gardens annexe).
Claremont Secondary Modern, Boys and Girls.
Grammar School.
Technical College, including refectory block and prefabricated classrooms.
Palatine School.
Collegiate School.
Devonshire Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Infant School.
Thames Road Secondary Modern and Primary Schools.
Bennett Avenue Clinic.
Park Road Bakery.

Interior and Exterior

Palatine Kitchen.
Layton Kitchen.
Marton Kitchen.
Thames Road School Dining Room and Scullery.

PERIODIC MEDICAL EXAMINATION—TABLE I

The total numbers examined in the Schools in the three age groups were as follows:—

Entrants	3,128
Second Age Group	1,300
Third Age Group	1,272
Total	5,700

Other examinations were carried out in the Schools as follows:—

Re-examinations	1,981
Special Inspections	255
Nurses' Survey (7+ Group)	2,063
Re-tests for vision	1,531
Special Classes Survey	161

Other School Work

Audiometer Tests	686
Total number of children immunised against Diphtheria	2,491

There is a considerable increase in the number of routine inspections this year, but it has been impossible to do other than the statutory ages. It is hoped that it will be possible to start other periodic inspections of the 7+ group. This 7+ group is the best age at whieh to ascertain defects, and arrange for treatment or special schooling if necessary. There is no ehange in the number of special inspections and re-examinations carried out in the schools.

The number of Diphtheria immunisations continues to show gradual increase.

Audiometer tests have increased in number since the acquisition of the Amplivox Audiometer.

WORK OF THE SCHOOL NURSES

(A) **In the Schools**

1. Routine Cleanliness Surveys three times a year. Following-up of children found to be in an unsatisfactory condition.
2. Visits to Open Air School and Speeial Classes.
3. Special visits, as required, in respect of outbreaks of infectious diseases.
4. Survey of 7+ group for ascertainment of general physical condition and visual acuity.
5. Seeing children for whom spectacles have been prescribed to ensure that the spectacles have been obtained.
6. Group Audiometer tests for deafness.
7. Assistance at Routine Inspections and Immunisation sessions.
8. Consultation with Head Teachers with regard to special cases.

(B) **In the Clinics**

1. Attendance daily at inspection and treatment clinics, under the School Medical Officers' supervision.
2. Attendance at Refraction Clinics twice weekly.
3. Examination of cases of Ringworm, and contacts, under Wood's Glass.
4. Individual Audiometer tests of children with defeetive hearing.
5. Supervision of the work of the Hygiene Assistant at the Cleansing and Scabies treatment clinics.

(C) **In the Homes**

1. Domiciliary visits to delieate children during long absences from school, re arrangements for home tuition.
2. Following up of ehildren referred for treatment or observation by the Chest Physician.
3. Visiting and advising parents concerning unsatisfactory conditions found at Cleanliness Surveys.
4. Following-up of cases failing to attend for treatment at Clinics.
5. Miscellaneous visits (e.g. parents' requests: investigation of progress after operative treatment, etc.)
6. Visits to ascertain home circumstances, in cases of Educationally Sub-normal and Ineducable children.

(D) **Keeping of statistical records for monthly and annual reports**

The total number of visits made by the School Nurses was as follows:

To the homes	476
To the schools	852
Number of sessions spent in the Clinics	2,018

In spite of changes and shortage of staff, a vast amount of work has been completed by the School Nurses. Each Nurse has her own group of schools for which she is responsible for Cleanliness and preparation of pupils for medical inspection. She visits each of her schools each term to do a hygienic inspection, which includes examination of the clothing, footwear, and general cleanliness, and hair of each child in school.

There is a medical inspection, as far as possible, in each school once a year. The Nurse weighs and measures the children, tests the visions, and helps with dressing and undressing.

In addition to school inspections, there are three Clinics. Minor ailments are treated at the central Clinic every day, and at the Branch Clinics on four or five afternoons. A Nurse is in charge of each Branch Clinic, with another Nurse seconded to the branch clinic if necessary. Each Nurse has a special job to do—

(1) Refraction Clinic with Dr. Blacklidge (including preparation and making appointments).
(2) Audiometer testing in schools.
(3) Keeping of records from Chest Clinic referring to school children.
(4) Immunisation in school with the doctor.
(5) Special home visits in respect of children being dealt with under Section 34 and 57 of the Education Act.

All nurses have to visit periodically the children absent from school on home tuition for various reasons. This check-up is essential.

During the school holidays the nurses continue the minor ailments clinic at Bennett Avenue Clinic, and get up to date with visiting and keeping of record cards, and provision of statistical details for monthly and annual reports. They also inspect all children home on holiday from residential special schools.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS (Table II)

The apparent drop in Special Inspections recorded is due to the fact that only school special inspections have been included, and not clinic specials as in previous years.

The standard of nutrition among the school children remains high. The percentage of children with poor nutrition has dropped slightly; this may be due to the lower income groups availing themselves of the School Meals Service. There appears to be an increasing number of children taking school meals each year. In contrast to poor nutrition, there is a definite tendency towards obesity. One usually finds that these fat children are eating too much starchy food and not enough protein.

There is an increasing number of orthopaedic defects occurring, mainly of poor posture and flat feet. It is possible that the modern trend of casual slip-on footwear is the greatest single factor causing foot defects. These defects are found mainly in adolescent girls. It is hoped, with the appointment of a physiotherapist, to counteract these defects by providing remedial exercises in the clinic for feet and postural defects. During the year the more severe of the defects were referred to the Orthopaedic Department of Victoria Hospital, and some have been treated by the Physiotherapist at the Health Centre. Unfortunately, only severe defects could be seen. It is hoped that early treatment of mild defects started in Infant and Junior School children will in future prevent severe defects occurring.

There is some increase in the lung defects, and this is probably due mainly to upper respiratory catarrh, causing coughs in the early part of the year. Bronchitis was very common amongst the school children. There is also the point that people with "chesty" children tend to migrate to Blackpool for health reasons. A large number of asthmatic children live in Blackpool.

There is also an increase in children with a psychological defect requiring treatment, and these children are dealt with through the Child Guidance Clinic.

It has been suggested, since the advent of the Health Service, that the School Medical Service would now become redundant. Far from being reduced, the work has increased and changed considerably in character. The problem is to find the time to do the work, particularly on the school premises, as so often the medical staff cannot get into school, because of sports days, speech days, etc. So much good is done by discussion about individual children between the School Medical Officers and the Heads of the Schools, that it is important that this contact should be maintained as closely as possible.

The 1944 Education Act has necessitated a great deal of statutory work, especially in connection with handicapped pupils. More time has to be spent in dealing with handicapped children, and ascertainment of the extent of their handicap, so that each child is placed in the best environment for his particular handicap, to ensure full benefit from his education.

CLEANLINESS (Table III)

Inspection	Total	Examinations		Percentage with few nits		Percentage with many nits	
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
First	12,605	5,871	6,734	.34	1.87	.20	.89
Second	13,732	6,615	7,117	.38	1.71	.14	.63
Third	13,354	6,338	7,016	.21	1.21	.14	.68

Total number of Inspections during year	39,691
Individual number of children found unclean	380
Number of follow-up inspections of these cases	1,372
Number of children cleared (3 clears) this year	326

The above table illustrates how the cleanliness in the Schools continues to improve. There are always a few offenders who have to be treated, but there are children with parents who are not co-operative.

CLEANLINESS CENTRE—Ashburton Road Clinic

During the year, 546 attendances were made for Head Cleansing. There were 107 individual children, some of whom, having been cleared, became re-infested, and therefore made subsequent attendances. Seventeen children made 95 attendances for skin cleansing and baths. Five cases of Scabies were dealt with.

Special clinics for head inspection and advice were held at Bennett Avenue Clinic and Hawes Side Clinic (moved to Roseacre School later in the year). The numbers were as follows:—

Bennett Avenue Clinic:	124 children made 310 attendances.
Hawes Side and Roseacre Clinics:	75 children made 218 attendances.

Cleanliness Inspections. During the year a total number of 196 children were inspected in the Clinics for cleanliness.

SCHOOL MEDICAL CLINICS (TABLE IV)

There has been little variation in the number of attendances at the Clinics this year. 16,073 attended in 1955, compared with 18,077 in 1954. The number of individual defects was larger, so it is supposed that the defects were less severe, necessitating fewer attendances. There have been fewer skin cases, but the number of cases of ringworm remain about the same. Two cases of ringworm of the scalp were referred to Manchester Skin Hospital for treatment. Impetigo is still with us, but the numbers are dropping.

The number of diseases of the eye and visual defects is around the same average figure.

There has been an increase in the number of ear, nose and throat defects treated in the Clinic, the increase being mainly seen in the months of January, February, March and December when nasal catarrh was prevalent.

There has been an increase in the number of orthopaedic cases referred from the School Clinics to the Victoria Hospital. It has also been noticeable that there has been a large number of bone injuries to the small bones of the hands and feet.

Special Examinations

A great amount of work has been done by the School Medical Officers in the clinics, interviewing and reassuring parents of various types of handicapped pupils. All handicaps are not gross enough to necessitate children going to special schools. The parents are seen, however, and encouraged to allow their children to lead, as far as possible, a normal school life. Many cases are helped by the services of the Speech Therapist and the Lip Reading Specialist. Many more will receive benefit from exercises when a full-time Physiotherapist is appointed.

Children who are more handicapped and may need special educational facilities have to be seen on more than one occasion to ascertain their handicap and the extent thereof. These interviews, especially in cases of mentally handicapped children, may take anything from half an hour to two hours. Since the responsibility for notification to the Health Department of ineducable children rests with the school medical officers, care and patience must be exercised in dealing with the parents of these children. In addition, the co-operation of the Head Teacher and the Educational Psychologist is usually necessary before a decision can be reached.

At the request of many teachers in special classes for Educationally Sub-normal children, and with the approval of the Chief Education Officer, regular meetings at Bennett Avenue Clinic were arranged of all those concerned in the education and treatment of Educationally Sub-normal

children. These meetings were attended regularly by the Deputy Education Officer, the School Medical Officers, the Head Teachers and teachers in special classes, and the Educational Psychologist. The problems met with in this type of work, and the methods of dealing with such problems, were discussed. These meetings became a regular monthly event, and it was felt that great benefit was derived by this liaison. It is hoped to continue these meetings until such time as a Special School for Educationally Subnormal children is available. The number of classes for these children now totals ten: five junior classes, and five senior classes. The benefits derived from these classes is shown by the improvement in the children attending them. The urgent need for adequate accommodation is obvious, particularly in the older age-groups, who need more handicraft training.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINICS (TABLE V)

During the year 1955 the staff of the Dental Clinic remained at four Dental Officers (Chief Dental Officer and three Assistant Dental Officers). This establishment cannot provide a fully adequate Dental service to the number of children requiring treatment, or reduce the considerable gap between routine Dental Inspections which, although it has been reduced, is still far too long.

The number of casual patients attending for the relief of toothache was again reduced, but not in sufficient numbers to justify any reduction in the number of sessions required for this work. The appointment of at least one further Assistant Dental Officer would greatly help in increasing the number of appointments which could be given for the treatment of routine dental cases requiring conservation of the permanent teeth.

In the year under review, 5,183 patients made 9,803 attendances at the Clinic, and 4,286 had their treatment completed. 4,332 fillings were inserted, and 7,424 teeth were extracted. General anaesthetics were administered on 3,883 occasions.

In this period the Consulting Dental Surgeon treated 11 patients who required oral surgery. 68 new patients were accepted for Orthodontic treatment, and 65 patients had their treatment completed.

PREMISES

The branch clinic in the southern part of the town was transferred from Hawes Side Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic to Roseacre Infants' School. The premises have been found to be less convenient for certain schools, and these schools have been allowed to make use of the main clinic at Bennett Avenue.

CENTRAL CLINIC, BENNETT AVENUE (Medical and Dental)

Open daily—Monday to Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon. 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Saturday	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

BRANCH CLINICS

Ashburton Road

(a) Medical: Open Monday to Friday	2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.
(b) Dental: Open Monday to Friday	9.30 a.m. to 12 noon (every alternate week).
Open daily—Monday to Friday	2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Roseacre Medical Clinic (Roseacre School)

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ..... 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

350 Lytham Road (Dental Clinic)

Open Monday to Friday ..... 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon (every alternate week)

Open daily—Monday to Friday ..... 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

In addition, the following specialist clinics are held:—

	Premises	*No. of sessions per week*
Orthodontic work	Bennett Avenue Dental Clinic	2
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bennett Avenue Medical Clinic	2 (2 hours each session)
Child Guidance Clinic	Ashburton Road Clinic	11
Speech Clinic	Speech Clinic Hornby Road	7
	Ashburton Road Clinic	2
Lip Reading Clinic	Bennett Avenue Clinic	3

Medical Clinics	1955	1954
Attendances	16,703	18,077
Number of ailments treated	9,326	8,935
Number of individual children	5,535	5,631
Average number of visits per child	3.0	3.2

Details of cases requiring examination, treatment, or advice at the Medical Clinics:—

Skin	Diseases of the Skin	1,316
Eyes	Visual defects (including squints)	1,216
	External eye defects	278
	Glasses for repair or replacement	482
Ears	Deafness, Earache, etc.	219
Nose and Throat	Catarrh, sore throats, tonsillitis, etc.	696
Orthopaedic Cases	Crippling defects, poor posture, flat feet	157
Nervous Disorders		30
Psychological Cases	Behaviour and personality disorders, stability, backwardness, etc.	196
Medical cases	Speech defects	28
	Cervical glands	40
	Heart and Circulation	10
	Chest and Lung defects	200
	Developmental (including Hernia)	14
	Miscellaneous medical cases	669
Infectious diseases		16

Surgical cases	Injuries, Sprains, Wounds	1,177
	Abscesses, Boils	205
	Burns, Scalds	72
	Minor Surgical cases	131
Special examinations	Including examinations for fitness for school: issue of Employment and Entertainment Licences: Boarded-out children: Special cases (2 H.P., etc.)	2,174

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Employment of children out of school hours

During the year, 384 examinations were carried out in connection with the granting of licences to work out of school hours. The majority of these licences were for delivering newspapers.

Employment of children in Entertainments

45 examinations were carried out in respect of children applying for licences permitting them to take part in public entertainments. The majority of these licences were for children taking part in the annual Tower Ballet.

Boarded-out Children

36 periodic examinations of Boarded-out children were carried out at the School Clinic during the year, by arrangement with the Children's Officer. Boarded-out children have also been examined and treated at the Clinic for minor ailments.

Teaching Staff

One hundred and two candidates for Teachers' Training Colleges have been examined during the year by the School Medical Officers. Sixteen newly appointed teachers were also medically examined. In cases where up-to-date Chest X-ray reports were not available, arrangements were made for chest examinations to be made at the Municipal Health Centre. Eighty-eight such examinations were carried out during the year.

Fitness for Activities

One hundred and twenty-six children were examined during the year to ascertain their fitness for Physical Training, Swimming, Boxing, and attendance at camp during holidays.

Special cases : Handicapped Pupils

One hundred and sixty-eight special examinations were carried out during the year in connection with completion of Forms 2 H.P. for Mentally Handicapped children, application forms for admission of Handicapped children to Special Schools; children were tested with regard to their suitability for admission to special classes for Educationally Sub-normal Children, and also, examinations were carried out in connection with notifying ineducable children.

Specialist Treatment

The Victoria Hospital deals with all surgical cases and emergencies referred there from the School Clinics. Tonsils and Adenoid operations are carried out by the Hospital Ear, Nose and Throat surgeons. General Medical cases are referred to the Hospital Paediatrician, and special medical (e.g. skin) cases to the appropriate surgeon. Eye cases requiring operation or Orthoptic out-patient treatment are treated at the Hospital by the Eye Specialists.

The following cases were referred to Victoria Hospital during the year, from the School Medical Clinics:—

For Orthoptic Treatment	56
For Tonsil and Adenoid operation	276
Other ear, nose and throat cases	54
Surgical cases	27
Gynaecologist	1
Casualties and Emergencies	215
For X-ray	6
Skin cases	12
Orthopaedic cases	48
Eye cases	7
Paediatrician	23
Breathing exercises	6

Whittingham Mental Hospital, Preston

During the year two cases were given Electro Encephalographic examinations for diagnosis of suspected Epilepsy.

Manchester University, Department for Education of the Deaf

Two children were referred for examination by the Specialist, for ascertainment of degree of deafness.

Manchester Hospital for Skin Diseases

Two children with positive ringworm of the scalp were referred for X-ray Epilation.

ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

Children treated as In-patients at Victoria Hospital	31
Children treated as In-patients in other Hospitals	14
Children treated in the Orthopaedic Out-patients' Department of Victoria Hospital	117

HEART DEFECTS

In the Routine Medical Inspections, 60 children were found to be suffering from defects of Heart and Circulation. The necessary treatment and supervision was carried out. Severe cardiac defects were kept under continuous observation, and admitted to the Open Air School where necessary.

SPASTIC PARALYSIS

Total number of cases kept under observation	22
Not severely affected—able to attend ordinary schools	11
More severely affected—attending Open Air School	1
Severely handicapped—at special residential schools for Physically Handicapped Children	3
Not at school (awaiting admission to Special School)	1
In Hospital, or Hospital Special Schools	3
At home, under supervision	3

RHEUMATISM

During the year nine children suffering from Rheumatism have been seen in the School Clinic, as follows:—

Rheumatic Fever	4
Rheumatoid Arthritis	2
Rheumatic Carditis	3

Four of the children are in ordinary schools under special supervision. Some of these cases were referred after treatment in Victoria Hospital, for following up. Special educational arrangements have been made for the remaining five cases, as follows:—

Home Tuition	2 cases of Rheumatic Fever.
	1 case of Rheumatic Carditis.
Open Air School	1 case of Rheumatic Carditis.
In Victoria Hospital	1 case of Rheumatic Carditis.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT

During the year, 48 delicate or debilitated children received convalescent treatment in the following homes:—

Ormerod Convalescent Home, St. Annes-on-Sea	37
Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby	8
Boarbank Hall Convalescent Home, Grange-over-Sands	3

The School Medical Officers are grateful for the co-operation of the above homes in taking cases without delay. The benefits received by the children concerned are manifold.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN

The total number of skin lesions recorded at the Clinics during the year was 1,316. These included Impetigo, Septic Abrasions, Warts, Eczema, etc.

Ringworm. During the year one child was examined under Wood's Glass for diagnosis of Ringworm. Twenty-eight cases of ringworm of the body and four of ringworm of the scalp were treated at the Clinic.

VISUAL DEFECTS

Defects ascertained at Routine Medical Inspections in Schools

Number of children referred for refraction	134
Number for observation (slight defective vision)	216
Wearing suitable glasses	324
Wearing glasses and referred for re-test	16

Nurses' Survey in Schools—periodic check of children wearing glasses

Total number inspected	1,531
Number referred for re-test	257

Nurses' Survey—Inspection of 7+ Group

Number of children requiring refraction or re-test	81

REFRACTION CLINIC—HELD AT BENNETT AVENUE CLINIC

Number of Refraction Clinics held	60
Number of children examined	818
Number for whom spectacles were prescribed	435
Number for whom spectacles were not advised	125
Number, already wearing spectacles, for whom no change of lens was advised	258
Number referred for Orthoptic treatment	56

The following is an analysis of the defects found among the children for whom spectacles were prescribed:—

Simple Hypermetropia	89
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	73
Simple Myopia	222
Mixed Astigmatism	11
Myopic Astigmatism	38
(Squint cases occurring among the above=52)	
Other cases	2

EAR DEFECTS

During the year, 38 children were found, at Routine Medical Inspections in Schools, to be suffering from defects of the ear, and requiring treatment:—

Defective Hearing	10
Middle Ear Disease	13
Other cases	15

Two hundred and nineteen children were treated in the School Clinics during the year, as follows:—

Defective Hearing	36
Middle Ear Disease	63
Other cases	120

Four children received operative treatment at Victoria Hospital for ear defects during the year.

Group Audiometer Tests

There has been a big increase in the number of children tested for hearing defects. The aim of the department is to test each year every child who is, or will be, nine years old during the year. All cases with a hearing loss are seen at the School Clinic by the School Medical Officer in the first instance, to ascertain whether any defect is present which is likely to cause the hearing loss, such as Wax, enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, Nasal Catarrh, Otitis Media. When all physical defects have been removed as far as possible, a re-test of the hearing is done.

The extent of the hearing loss then present is graded. If the child shows sufficient loss of hearing to warrant further investigation, he is referred to the Department of the Deaf at Manchester University for advice re further schooling, or to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, Victoria Hospital, where hearing aids are supplied if found to be necessary.

The greater proportion of the children seen with definite loss of hearing are benefited by attendance at the Lip Reading Classes, or by individual Lip Reading tuition. A Lip Reading class was inaugurated in November. Five or six children were taken for six lessons.

Six hundred and eighty-six children were tested in schools during the year; some of these children were referred to the Clinic for a re-test. Children found to have defective hearing were given the necessary treatment, including referral to Hospital, or referral for Lip Reading lessons.

Schools:	Number of sessions	32	
	Number of children tested	686	
	Number found to have normal hearing	639	
	Number found to have defective hearing		47
Clinics:	Number of children tested	40	
	Number found to have normal hearing	10	
	Number found to have defective hearing		30
	Total number with defective hearing		77
Treatment:	Number of above referred for Lip Reading (individual lessons or group classes)	18	
	Admitted to Special School for the Deaf	2	
	Referred to E.N.T. Department, Victoria Hospital	11	
	Re-tested in Clinic	6	
	Slightly defective hearing, for observation and periodic check-up	40	77

LIP READING—at Bennett Avenue Clinic

Eighteen children who are Deaf or Partially Deaf received tuition during 1955. One girl received instruction for four years. Lessons concluded in January, 1955, as her speech defect had been put right, and with the use of Lipreading and a hearing aid, she holds her own in school. Since the lessons concluded, we have been in touch with her parent to check up on her progress.

After hospital treatment one boy's hearing was much improved and Lip Reading lessons were discontinued in July, 1955. He has a "Medresco" hearing aid. One girl made excellent progress in Lip reading and lessons concluded in May. One boy, who had had lessons in Lip Reading and Speech in previous years, returned in January, 1955, but the lessons had to be abandoned again because of irregular attendance. The same applies to his brother, who embarked on a course of Lip Reading and Speech in June. He attended only three times out of a possible six, but the lessons had to be discontinued, although his speech was very defective.

Two girls had short courses in Lip Reading while awaiting admission to the Liverpool School for the Partially Deaf. They went there in June. One girl had a short course of lessons, but after hospital treatment, her hearing was much improved, and further lessons were considered unnecessary. One boy began having lessons in Lip Reading and Speech in June. He suffers from severe high-tone deafness and speech defects as a result of this. He shows aptitude for Lip Reading and has made considerable progress in Speech. He works very hard.

One girl has continued lessons and made good progress, particularly during the Autumn term. She is more self-reliant and much more communicative. One boy still finds Lip Reading difficult, but is very good when using it in conjunction with a hearing aid. He now has a "Medresco" aid.

His speech is much improved. One girl can do well but needs constant reminders to keep her speech up to its best level. She follows lessons and conservation well with Lip Reading, and her "Medresco" hearing aid.

Five children attended a weekly class in Lip Reading between 11th November and 16th December. All attended regularly except one. None of these children is severely deaf, but during the short course of six lessons, the aim was to show them "how their eyes could help their ears". It is hoped to hold more classes of this kind as the need arises.

NOSE AND THROAT DEFECTS

At the Routine Medical Inspections, 467 children were found to require treatment for nose and throat defects, including tonsillar sepsis and/or adenoids. In addition 106 children were found to require observation for minor defects.

Two hundred and seventy-six children were referred to Victoria Hospital for Tonsil and Adenoid operation. A number of school children were also referred to the Hospital direct by their private doctors. Four hundred and twenty-eight children received operative treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids during the year. Forty-four children received operative treatment at the Hospital for other nose and throat defects.

SPEECH CLINIC—at 125 Hornby Road and Ashburton Road Clinic

Seventy-three children were under regular treatment at the end of the year, and 47 were attending periodically for consultation and advice. During the year, 2,525 attendances were made. The total number of patients treated throughout the year was 142. At the end of the year the waiting list was 191. Further details of some cases are added to illustrate the types of cases seen in the Speech Clinic.

A boy with a speech defect due to birth injury

This boy is treated at home, as he is also physically very disabled. In 1950, when he was eight years old, this boy's speech was limited to grunts. He attempted to say words, and sometimes said "p" and "pin". He was visited monthly until July, 1951, and his mother was shown how to help him. In November, 1952, he was using combinations of words but his speech was so bad that only his mother could understand him, and even she was often baffled. From November, 1952, he has been visited weekly and attempts have been made to enlarge his vocabulary and teach him familiar phrases and simple sentences. He is very anxious to talk and has a sense of fun. He now uses sentences and can usually be understood not only by his family, but also by many strangers.

A girl who used incorrect sounds

In November, 1952, at the age of six, this girl's speech was very defective. She was so upset about it that she refused to go to her dancing class and would stand in a corner of the school playground while the other children played. She has made steady progress at the Clinic and only needs a little more treatment for her speech to be correct. Her willingness to mix with other children has improved simultaneously with her speech.

A girl with a speech defect due to a brain injury

In January 1954 this girl lost her speech owing to a brain injury. She was then nearly seven years old and had previously spoken well. A month later, while still in hospital, her speech began to recover. When speech

treatment began in August, 1954, she could say some words but did not have a large vocabulary. No sentences or combinations of words were used. She said "t" for "k" and "w" for "r". Her vocabulary is now greatly increased and she talks in sentences although when she uses a long sentence it may contain a mistake, e.g.: "There is a little girl crying with holding a pinny like this". The sound "k" is correct and 'r" is usually correct. This girl's progress has been very good and a further advance in her speech is anticipated.

A boy with a stammer

This boy has been recently discharged from the Speech Clinic. He is now talking fluently and is confident that his speech is normal. He had stammered since being seven years old, and speech treatment began when he was 14 years old. At that time he had most difficulty with explanations, questions that took him by surprise, telephone conservations, and reading.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC—held at Ashburton Road Clinic

During the year, 43 children were seen by the Psychiatrist. Cases were referred by the School Medical Officers; the Head Teachers; the Children's Officer; the Probation Officers; the Speech Therapist; and by other doctors, including the Paediatrician at Victoria Hospital, through the School Medical Officer.

The Educational Psychologist carried out 151 psychological examinations during the year. Regular remedial and psychological treatment was carried out in the Clinic, including some play therapy. Four hundred and thirty-seven attendances were made during the year.

During the year, a number of very disturbed children have attended the Child Guidance Clinic for remedial treatment, psychological treatment and advice. Among the cases treated were children suffering from nervous disorders, such as bed-wetting, soiling, insomnia, twitching, nail-biting, loss of appetite; behaviour disorders, such as temper tantrums, destructiveness, aggressiveness, lying, stealing, and children with educational problems, such as lack of concentration, lack of school progress, backwardness, fear of school, truancy.

The majority of cases referred by Head Teachers involved some aspect of schooling difficulty. In each case the child and parent were interviewed and through talks with parents, school visits and discussions with teachers, the child was helped towards a better adjustment to work, school and home. Where the otherwise average child was educationally backward due to some specific learning disability or emotional upset, remedial treatment at the Clinic was arranged. In cases where school failure was due to lack of innate ability and the child found to be in need of special educational treatment, a transfer was arranged to one of the Special Classes. There are at present five Special Classes for children of primary school age and six Special Classes for children of secondary school age, each class catering for 15 children.

Psychological treatment and interviews with both parents at the Clinic are an essential part in helping children showing nervous disorders or behaviour difficulties. Where the nervous condition or behaviour problem was due to some mismanagement on the part of the parent in an otherwise good home, it was possible to reassure the parent and bring about a gradual improvement in the child by advice given to the parent on the handling

and management of the child. Where the emotional disturbance was deeper, the child was taken on for psychological treatment, while the parent attended for separate interviews. Attendance has been regular and some children were able to improve in a short time. The parents attended well and were eager to co-operate. Four hundred and thirty-seven attendances for treatment were made by children during the year and 417 interviews were given to parents.

In cases of serious educational and behaviour problems, including Court cases, where the home conditions were adverse to the child's well-being and social adjustment, necessitating a complete change of environment, a placement in a Residential Special School was arranged for the child, either in a School for Maladjusted Children or in a School for E.S.N. Children.

OPEN AIR SCHOOL

All Hallows Road, Bispham, Blackpool

The school has been fully occupied all year. In fact 47 children were on the register at the end of the year. The aim of the school is to give children suffering from a debilitating illness time to get into school routine before facing the "rough and tumble" of an ordinary school life. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the children admitted are, by reason of physical handicap, quite unfit ever to return to normal schools. Although originally this school was built for delicate children, physically handicapped children have to be admitted as there is no other day school for them. Experience shows that the two groups (delicate and physically handicapped) do very well together. They help each other both physically and psychologically.

Sometimes, in delicate children, no outward signs of illness are visible—one girl, who is a Haemophilia (which is a bleeding disease) looks extremely healthy and out of place amongst the crippled children in the school. However, should she have any injury, however slight, she may bleed to such an extent that she has to be removed to Hospital. She is therefore kept in the Open Air School for her own protection. Each child in the school is aware that all children there have some disability, and therefore they learn patience and tolerance with each other.

During the summer term a swimming class was started for the children suffering from physical handicaps, particularly children who had had poliomyelitis. Grateful thanks are due to Miss Chambers (Organiser of Physical Education) for her help and patience with these children. The joy and happiness brought by the free movement in the water without irons or calipers has to be seen to be appreciated. A number of the mothers attended with the children, and helped with the general arrangements. It is hoped that this class will be extended when a Physiotherapist is appointed.

One of the school nurses goes to the school regularly twice a week to give breathing exercises to all children with a chest handicap. This work and other remedial exercises will be done by the Physiotherapist when she is appointed.

The aim is to make the children do what they are capable of doing. Unfortunately, at home, parents are over-protective, and the children should be encouraged to show initiative and independence. The attitude should be never to do for a handicapped child what he can do for himself.

Diagnosis of Children in the Open Air School, December, 1955

Boys		Girls	
Chest and Asthma	10	Chest and Asthma	7
Delicate and Debilitated	4	Cardiac	2
Muscular Dystrophy	5	Debility	4
Hemiplegia	1	Old Polio	6
Talipes	1	Hemiplegia	1
	—	Haemophilia	1
	21	Hilar Glands	1
	—	Still's Disease (Arthritis)	1
		Scoliosis	2
		Congenital Dislocation of Hip	1
			—
			26
			—

From the above it will be seen how varied are the cases admitted to the Open Air School. Chest cases are always much higher than any other group. Five boys of ages varying from six to 12 years, are suffering from pseudo-hypermetropic muscular dystrophy. This is a particularly distressing illness, as the cause is obscure and there is as yet no known cure. It is hoped that time may be available in the future for further investigation by the School Medical Officers into these cases.

One girl who was admitted was recovering from a hemiplegia following a tooth extraction. She has not yet regained full movement of her right leg, and still walks with a caliper.

One girl who has a marked Scoliosis and is extremely small, was admitted instead of being transferred to a secondary modern school. Her whole outlook has changed, and she is much happier now than at any time in her school life.

One girl suffering from congenital heart disease has been advised operation in Manchester. Her parents are finding the decision difficult to make.

One girl was admitted in January, 1955, with marked paralysis following poliomyelitis. She had to wheel herself in a chair and was unable to hold a pencil. By the end of the year she could walk unaided the length of the classroom, although she still had to be helped on to her feet. She could also write quite well. Her progress has been remarkable.

Ten children were discharged in an improved condition to ordinary schools during the year. One girl still walking in calipers and spinal jacket went to Highfield Secondary Modern School, and is happy and coping quite well in spite of her physical handicap. One girl was transferred to a Special Class, as her physical handicap had improved sufficiently, but she was still mentally retarded.

It was with sorrow that the school heard of the loss of their Headmistress, Miss Isherwood, and she will be remembered for a long time for her invaluable work in the Open Air School.

CHEST CLINIC

The Chest Clinic (under the Regional Hospital Board) is held at the Municipal Health Centre. Cases are referred from the School Clinics, and from Routine Medical Inspections. X-ray and Tuberculosis skin reactions are carried out; a school nurse visits all chest cases, and, where treatment such as Ultra-Violet Ray or Breathing Exercises is recommended, makes the necessary arrangements. Such treatment is carried out in the Authority's Health Centre Physiotherapy Department.

NUMBER OF CASES

Diagnosis of new cases seen in Chest Clinic		Old cases still under observation
Bronchitis	20	5
Bronchiectasis	7	7
Asthma	15	7
Upper Respiratory Infection	61	7
Low Grade Pneumonia	22	5
Non-Respiratory Cervical Adenitis	5	1
Whooping Cough	1	—
T.B. Gland	1	—
Examined and found free from defect	8	
Chest cases seen at Victoria Hospital		
Bronchitis	1	
Bronchiectasis	3	
Asthma	5	
Low Grade Pneumonia	1	

The following is a summary of cases of Tuberculosis in school children:—

		Boys	Girls	Total
Pulmonary	Improving, Quiescent	21	17	38
	Discharged	4	4	8
	Left town	1	1	2
	Contacts examined	6	5	11
Glandular		3	2	5
	Discharged	1	—	1
Osseous		1	1	2
	Discharged	1	—	1
Skin		1	—	1

During the year the following numbers of children were referred from the School Medical Clinics to the Physiotherapy Department at the Health Centre:—

For General Sunlight treatment	333
For local treatment (Ear, Nose and Throat cases)	3
For Radiant Heat	2
For Special Exercises	2
For Breathing Exercises	87
For General U.V.R. and Breathing Exercises	2

The following table shows the number of children who attended the Centre for Sunlight Treatment during the year, and the number of attendances made:—

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED THE SUNLIGHT CLINIC IN 1955

Diagnosis	Boys		Girls	
	Individual Numbers	Attendances	Individual Numbers	Attendances
Debility	139	673	184	805
Glands and Tonsils	18	61	16	90
Colds and Catarrh	134	660	181	845
Bronchitis	38	140	25	92
Rheumatism	7	35	4	18
Asthma	54	129	16	49
Anaemia	5	18	—	—
Nerves	2	12	—	—
Psoriasis	—	—	1	6
Miscellaneous	59	263	53	190
Total	456	1,991	480	1,095

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the details of Infectious Diseases occurring among school children during the year, also the corresponding numbers for the past three years:—

	1955	1954	1953	1952
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	89	106	265	172
Whooping Cough	38	108	172	208
Measles	380	860	212	639
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	9	4	3	7
Typhoid	—	—	—	1
Sonne Dysentery	769	1	5	501
Poliomyelitis	3	5	23	4
Food Poisoning	10	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	3	—	—

During the year, 2,491 children were immunised against Diphtheria through the School Health Service, as follows:—

Number of children who received primary injections (two doses)	393
Numbe of children who received "Booster" (reinforcing) doses	2,098
	2,491

This number compares with 2,405 children immunised in 1954.

Incidence of Diphtheria in School Children in Blackpool during the last ten years

1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
0	0	0	0	0	3	12	10	14	9

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

		Boys	Girls	Total
Blind	In Residential School	1	—	1
	At home (ineducable, with multiple handicaps)	—	1	1
Partially Sighted	In Residential Schools	2	—	2
	Attending Primary and Secondary Schools under special supervision	6	3	9
Deaf	In Residential Schools	8	7	15
	At home, awaiting admission to Special School	—	1	1
	At home (Ineducable, Deaf Mute)	—	1	1
	At school, having Lip Reading lessons	—	1	1
Partially Deaf	In Residential Schools	1	2	3
	Attending Primary and Secondary Schools	12	9	21
	(Children, included in this category, having Lip Reading lessons)	5	4	9
Diabetic	In School	3	3	6
Delicate	In Residential Schools	—	1	1
	In the Open Air School	14	16	30
	At home, having home tuition	5	4	9
Physically Handicapped	In Residential Schools	4	2	6
	In the Open Air School	7	10	17
	At home, having home tuition	4	3	7
	At home, having Speech Therapy	1	—	1
Slightly Delicate in Ordinary Schools (including Chest and Cardiac cases)		95	68	163
Slightly Physically Handicapped in Ordinary Schools		53	44	97
Epileptic	Attending Residential Schools	2	1	3
	Attending ordinary schools	7	—	7
Petit Mal	Attending ordinary schools	28	12	40
Educationally Sub-normal	In Residential Schools	13	5	18
	Awaiting places in Residential Schools	1	—	1
Maladjusted	In Residential Schools	15	2	17
	Awaiting places in Residential Schools	4	1	5

CO-OPERATION OF VOLUNTARY BODIES

The Chief Constable's Clothing Fund has continued to supply children in need with clothing and footwear. During the year, 139 children were supplied with clothing and footwear; 83 children with footwear only, and 27 children with clothing only.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has again been very helpful in dealing with cases of neglect referred to the Inspector. The numbers for the year were as follows:—

Number of cases during year	15
Number of children dealt with	46
Number of adults warned or advised	23
Number of supervision visits	49

SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

The total number of meals supplied by the School Kitchens during 1955 was 1,895,531 compared with 1,569,128 in 1954, 1,672,461 in 1953, and 1,634,857 in 1952. The average percentage of children having school meals in 1955 was 52.77 compared with 50.78 for 1954.

COD LIVER OIL AND MALT

Eighty-two notes were issued to the Foxton Dispensary, which has continued to supply Cod Liver Oil and Malt to delicate children.

Ninety-nine jars of Cod Liver Oil and Malt have been distributed by the Education Authority for those children whose parents are unable to attend the Foxton Dispensary, and for cases in which a prolonged course is not required. Two hundred jars of Maltoline with Iron have also been issued.

A regular supply of Oil and Malt and Vitamins has been provided for the children at the Open Air School.

TABLE I

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections

Age groups inspected and number of children examined in each:—

Entrants	3,128
Second Age Group	1,300
Third Age Group	1,272
Total	5,700
Additional Periodic Inspections	—
Grand Total	5,700

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	255
Number of Re-Inspections	1,981
Total	2,236

C.—Pupils Found to Require Treatment

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Age Groups Inspected	For Defective Vision (*excluding* Squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA	Total individual pupils
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Entrants	26	1,079	1,060
Second Age Group	59	270	299
Third Age Group	49	178	205
Total	134	1,527	1,564
Additional Periodic Inspections	—	—	—
Grand Total	134	1,527	1,564

TABLE II

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections — No. of Defects		Special Inspections — No. of Defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation but not requiring treatment
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4	Skin	53	36	28	—
5	Eyes: (a) Vision	134	216	20	315
	(b) Squint	54	172	—	68
	(c) Other	36	39	—	—
6	Ears: (a) Hearing	10	24	2	30
	(b) Otitis Media	13	16	5	—
	(c) Other	15	17	—	—
7	Nose or Throat	467	106	—	—
8	Speech	126	38	2	—
9	Cervical Glands	7	12	—	—
10	Heart and Circulation	18	42	3	—
11	Lungs	88	72	15	—
12	Developmental:				
	(a) Hernia	1	8	—	—
	(b) Other	13	44	—	—
13	Orthopaedic:				
	(a) Posture	66	18	—	—
	(b) Flat Feet	201	41	—	—
	(c) Other	155	99	17	—
14	Nervous System:				
	(a) Epilepsy	—	13	—	—
	(b) Other	6	5	—	—
15	Psychological:				
	(a) Development	9	11	133	—
	(b) Stability	127	44	—	—
16	Other	85	83	31	—

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Group Inspected (1)	Number of Pupils Inspected (2)	(A) (Good)		(B) (Fair)		(C) (Poor)	
		No. (3)	% of Col. 2 (4)	No. (5)	% of Col. 2 (6)	No. (7)	% of Col. 2 (8)
Entrants	3,128	2,589	82.77	506	16.17	33	1.05
Second Age Group	1,300	968	74.46	321	24.69	11	0.84
Third Age Group	1,272	1,055	82.94	212	16.66	5	0.39
Additional Periodic Inspections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5,700	4,612	80.91	1,039	18.23	49	0.85

TABLE III

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	39,691
(ii) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	380
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2)), Education Act, 1944	3
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3)), Education Act, 1944	—

TABLE IV

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

GROUP I.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS, FOR WHICH SEE TABLE III)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Ringworm: (i) Scalp	4	2
(ii) Body	28	—
Scabies	6	—
Impetigo	174	—
Other Skin Diseases	1,104	36
Total	1,316	38

Group II.—Eye Diseases, Defective Vision and Squint

	Number of cases treated with	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	280	74
Errors of refraction (including Squint)	818	28
Total	1,098	102
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) Prescribed	435	—
(b) Obtained	411	—

Group III.—Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Received operative treatment:		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	4
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	428
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	44
Received other forms of treatment	933	186
Total	933	662

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals	45	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	157	117

Group V.—Child Guidance Treatment

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	Elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics:		
By Psychiatrist	43	
Psychological Tests	151	—
Total	194	—

GROUP VI.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists	142	—

GROUP VII.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	By the Authority	Otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	1,541	294
(b) Other than (a) above:		
1. Medical	1,021	194
2. Nervous System	30	—
3. Psychological	196	—
Total	2,788	488

TABLE V

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:—	
	(a) at Periodic Inspections	7,452
	(b) as Specials	2,721
	Total (1)	10,173
(2)	Number found to require treatment	8,088
(3)	Number offered treatment	7,367
(4)	Number actually treated	5,183
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	9,803
(6)	Half-days devoted to: Periodic Inspection	46
	Treatment	2,035
	Total (6)	2,081
(7)	Fillings: Permanent Teeth	4,319
	Temporary Teeth	13
	Total (7)	4,332
(8)	Number of Teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	3,687
	Temporary Teeth	13
	Total (8)	3,700
(9)	Extractions: Permanent Teeth	2,148
	Temporary Teeth	5,276
	Total (9)	7,424
(10)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	3,883
(11)	Other operations: Permanent Teeth	1,449
	Temporary Teeth	13
	Total (11)	1,462

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

ORGANISERS OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOR THE YEAR 1955

The programme of Physical Education in schools to-day takes into account the conditions of living in modern times. Under the changed conditions of the present, a much greater percentage of people is crowded together in large towns with little opportunity to lead the sort of life that is normal for human beings. Lack of space inhibits the normal free play of children. Everywhere mechanical means of transport and communication tend to make walking a lost art. The cinema and the radio and television offer sedentary forms of entertainment and recreation, providing a poor substitute for genuine emotional experience involved in the participation of play, games and the like.

It is true to say that the modern conception of education has been influenced by these changes. The tremendous possibilities of Physical Education in alleviating present-day conditions is fully recognised. An adequate and well-organised programme of physical activity for the young is to-day a necessity in view of the elimination from modern life of the innumerable natural activities which were characteristic of other ages.

It is fully realised that in the machine age intelligence and personality have assumed a role in successful living, far more important than mere physical strength. But at the same time, it is also apparent that development of an integrated personality involves the cultivation of the physical and emotional elements of life, which can best be achieved through muscular activity. In addition, opportunities occur which demand such qualities as initiative and discretion and assist in the stimulation and development of mental powers. Physical Education has, therefore, almost a greater part to play than any other single phase of the whole educational project. This is true because of the wide variety of activities involved. No other subject tackles so strenuously and objectively the challenge of training for successful living. The aims of the work to-day are to develop the health and strength of the child as far as heredity and environment will allow, taking into account the special needs of the times; to assist in the development of the mental capacity of the child through activities which require the use of intelligence and initiative, and to foster a happy adjustment of the child to school and to the community at large, through educational pursuits which provide an emotionally satisfying experience.

Primary Schools

The work in this department has maintained a satisfactory level of achievement. Teachers in both Infant and Junior Departments are endeavouring to carry out the scheme based on the suggestions contained in the Ministry of Education's publication "Planning the Programme". Some teachers experience real difficulty in making a suitable choice of work. This is due in some cases to a lack of Technical knowledge; in others it is due merely to uncertainty and inexperience. Many look back on the days

of the set syllabus and regret that it is no longer in use. Others welcome the new freedom and responsibility and are producing far better work than ever before. It is too early at this stage to form any definite conclusions as to the success or failure of the scheme. Much work still remains to be done in advising individual teachers how they can best apply it.

Junior Games

Football continues to dominate the sporting activities of the Junior Boys' and Junior Mixed Schools, sometimes it must be said, almost to the exclusion of all else. More Head Teachers however, are realising the importance and value of a more comprehensive training for boys of this age group and are implementing the games scheme with successful results. Inter-school football is well organised and played to a high standard.

Netball is being played now in some Girls' and Mixed Schools, and several inter-school matches have been arranged. It is doubtful whether this game with its unnatural and inhibitive rule of "no running with the ball" can seriously be considered as a suitable game for juniors. On the other hand, there is no doubt that some primary children play it to a reasonable standard and thoroughly enjoy it.

Secondary Schools (Girls)

The type of work done in Girls' Secondary Schools to-day should provide scope for some initiative in experiment on the part of the class. Whilst most teachers allow for this, some are inclined, still, to regimentation —this is unfortunate. Physical movement provides a natural outlet of energy and the practice of introducing more individual and group work into the lesson not only provides the means of achieving this, but also ensures the development of the Physical resources of the individual to the limit. To train children in good natural movement, to develop self-reliance and a sense of responsibility should be the chief aims of the work to-day, and examination of method should show the extent to which this is being achieved.

Secondary Girls' Games

The major games of hockey and netball in the winter, tennis and rounders in the summer, continue to maintain their popularity in the Girls' Schools. Lack of adequate facilities, particularly in the Secondary Modern Schools severely curtails the amount of hockey played and accentuates the urgent need for more playing fields. In these schools also, the opportunity of playing tennis is largely denied owing to the lack of accessible tennis courts.

Secondary Schools (Boys)

During the year there have been no changes in the Physical Education specialist staff in these schools, and as a result the work continues to be performed in an enthusiastic manner, and a good standard has been maintained.

There is room, however, for new methods of approach with a view to meeting the needs of the individual pupil, and of presenting a less stereotyped lesson planned to give pupils more interest in the work, and also to provide incentive for greater effort.

The lack of fully equipped gymnasia at Highfield, St. John Vianney and Thames Road Modern Schools continues to impose a limit on the work which can be attempted in these schools, whilst at Palatine Secondary Technical School and at Claremont Boys' School, the gymnasia are very small for the large classes now using them.

Association Football

This game provides the chief medium for inter-school competition during the winter months, weekly fixtures being played in both the Primary and Secondary Schools' Football Leagues.

With the continuing increase in the number of pupils of secondary school age, however, the problem of adequately catering for the needs of pupils of all ages becomes more difficult, the lack of school playing fields and suitable changing facilities being the limiting factor. All, except one, of the Secondary Schools take up an appreciable portion of their games time in proceeding to the playing fields dispersed throughout the Borough, and the changing facilities needed are in most cases totally inadequate.

The Primary Schools are generally much better provided for in this respect, several of the newer schools having adequate playing fields adjacent to the school.

Athletics

Athletics as a major sport of all schools both Junior and Secondary, during the summer term, is now an established fact. The importance and value of teaching the variety of techniques involved is now fully realised by those concerned. Time and attention are devoted to this training, taken very often indoors, towards the end of the spring term, and have resulted in better performances and improved all-round standards. It is pleasing to note that the practice of arranging inter-school athletics meetings has been continued with success.

The Annual Combined Secondary Schools' Athletic Championships were held in Stanley Park during July with representatives from all Secondary Schools taking part. Twenty new records were established at this meeting—an extremely creditable result, and a tribute to the sterling work the teachers are doing.

The Junior Schools' Athletic Sports were held at Hawes Side School Playing Fields, and a total of 22 schools took part. A new and successful addition to the programme this year was a massed display of English Country Dancing.

On the results of the County Championships held at the White City Stadium, Manchester, Blackpool was runner-up in four sections, nine Blackpool boys and girls were chosen to represent the Lancashire County at the National Championships also held in Manchester this year. E. Martlew had the unusual distinction of gaining two winners' medals, one in the 150 yards Junior Girls and the other as a member of the Lancashire Junior Relay Team. Other fine achievements were J. McNeal, 2nd in the Boys' Intermediate High Jump; I. Stewart, 6th in the Boys' Intermediate 440 yards; and J. Davies, a member of the winning Lancashire Senior Boys' Relay Team.

Boxing

This sport has gained in popularity in most sehools during the past year, and there was a good number of entries for the recently contested eliminating bouts to select the Blaekpool Schools' representatives in the County Schools' A.B.A. Championships.

The fourth Annual Boxing Tournament of the Schools' Boxing Association was held at the Tower Circus through the kind permission of the Tower Company, and School Tournaments were held at Claremont and Highfield Schools.

Cricket

The cricket season was a successful one, helped in no small measure by the glorious weather of the summer months. A full programme of fixtures in the Seeondary Schools' Cricket League was completed, and the standard of play generally in the Secondary Schools improved, especially in those schools where group eoaehing was adopted.

Much remains to be done, however. To train cricketers, we must have the right facilities, and the provision of good and sufficient pitches is a major problem. The provison and maintenance of turf pitches is costly, and as the eoncrete pitches at present available are far from sufficient to meet the requirements of all pupils in the secondary schools, there is a great need for the provision of alternative types of surface.

In the Junior Schools, inter-school fixtures continued to be arranged on a "friendly" basis, and a few girls' schools, notably Arnold and Collegiate, played the game regularly and arranged fixtures.

The Town Team had a successful season, winning all of their four matches.

Dance

Danee in education should be an expression of a mood, a feeling, emotion or idea and the outward forms should be determined by this and arise out of the inner urges of the dancer rather than be determined beforehand by purely aesthetic considerations. This philosophy was the subject of two lecture demonstrations held last year. Carried out in praetice in the Junior Schools the emphasis is at present mainly confined to the teaching of National Dancing. By a variation of the mood and character of the type of dancing taught the children are given the opportunity of experiencing the full range of qualities of movement. The set form of the dance becomes a natural result of spontaneous movement.

Swimming

Swimming continues to play a major role in the Physical Education programme of schools in the town. This year a record number of attendances totalling 83,235 pupils, were made at the four pools used by the Authority. The instruetion provided is good and the results obtained continue to prove this statement, as witness the figures showing the number of certificates awarded during the year.

ATTENDANCES DURING THE YEAR

	Classes	Pupils
Derby Baths (Big Pool and Learners' Pool)	1,025	27,744
Cocker Street Baths	1,804	44,696
Lido Baths	391	10,795
Totals	3,220	83,235

COMPARISON OF ATTENDANCES OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
64,950	62,182	76,580	82,065	83,235

CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

School	Learners	Elementary	Intermediate	Advanced	Totals
BOYS					
Arnold	23	9	—	—	32
Baines Endowed Primary	17	6	—	—	23
Claremont Junior Mixed	28	19	—	—	47
Grange Park Junior Mixed	15	—	—	—	15
Blackpool Grammar	62	48	—	—	110
Hawes Side Junior Mixed	11	3	—	—	14
Highfield Boys	49	50	19	—	118
Norbreck Junior Mixed	16	8	—	—	24
Our Lady and St. Cuthbert	17	2	—	—	19
Palatine Secondary Technical	94	76	9	11	190
Revoe Junior Mixed	29	15	—	—	44
Roseacre Junior Mixed	23	8	—	—	31
Sacred Heart	20	5	—	—	25
Stanley Junior Mixed	29	8	—	—	37
St. Columba's Junior Mixed	11	—	—	—	11
St. John's C.E. Junior Mixed	17	10	—	—	27
St. John Vianney Primary	6	3	—	—	9
St. Nicholas C.E.	1	—	—	—	1
Thames Road Sec. Modern	8	13	—	—	21
Thames Road Primary	48	17	—	—	65
Technical College	1	1	—	—	2
Waterloo Primary	43	15	—	—	58
	568	316	28	11	923
GIRLS					
Baines Endowed Primary	11	2	—	—	13
Claremont Junior Mixed	32	12	—	—	44
Claremont Secondary Modern	73	78	8	5	164
Grange Park Junior Mixed	11	—	—	—	11
Highfield	40	18	11	1	70
Norbreck	12	3	—	—	15
Open Air	3	1	—	—	4
Our Lady & St. Cuthbert's	15	5	—	—	20
Palatine	65	37	36	15	153
Revoe	25	14	2	—	41
Roseacre	18	12	—	—	30
Sacred Heart	29	7	—	—	36
Stanley	19	1	—	—	20
St. Columba's	7	—	—	—	7
St. John's C.E.	6	—	—	—	6
St. John Vianney Primary	7	—	—	—	7
St. Nicholas'	8	—	—	—	8
Thames Road Secondary	25	10	—	—	35
Technical College	6	2	—	—	8
Tyldesley	88	35	—	—	123
Totals	1,000	531	85	32	1,648

Tower Shield: (Boys)—Waterloo Junior Boys' School

Winter Gardens Shield: (Girls)—Claremont Junior School

The Tower and Winter Gardens Shields are awarded to Junior Schools with the highest percentage of Learners' Certificates relative to the number of scholars on roll. All Secondary Schools hold either joint or separate swimming galas in one or other of the Baths and the standard and variety of programmes are very high indeed.

The combined Schools' Swimming Gala was held this year as usual in October when ten new records were established—a really outstanding achievement considering the high standards already established. In the Lancashire Schools' Championships the Blackpool team gained six first places, five being in record time. In the final result, Blackpool came second to Manchester.

Six Blackpool boys and girls represented the County in the English Schools' Championships. Anne Morton won the Butterfly event and Margaret Grundy the Breast Stroke event, whilst Roger Loveman was runner-up in the boys' Breast Stroke. These three, together with Bill Wing, were also members of winning relays. Margaret Grundy and Anne Morton again brought honour to Blackpool by representing Great Britain. The thanks of the Organisers are due to the teachers who continue to maintain such high standards both in class teaching and specialised coaching, enabling Blackpool boys and girls to succeed as they do.

Playing Fields

Two new playing areas have, during the course of the year, come into full use, namely, Grange Park and Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Cuthbert's. Work commenced on the Grammar School playing fields is progressing satisfactorily.

The northern section of the town is still badly off for fields and it is to be hoped that the existing under-developed fields at Bispham and Arnold High School will soon be developed and brought into full use.

It is with regret that we report the intention of the Railway Executive to take over the Hampton Road playing field. This will severely curtail the activities of the Thames Road Secondary Modern and Junior Schools.

Shoes and Clothing

Supplies of plimsolls, shorts and knickers are no longer available for issue to pupils, with the result that not all pupils are properly clothed for activities in the Physical Education lesson. Headmasters have eased this situation by appealing to parents to provide suitable clothing, but a number of pupils still remain unsuitably equipped. Plimsolls with non-slip soles are an essential safety precaution in the use of apparatus both in a school hall or a gymnasium, and it is essential that they should be available for every pupil in need of them. It is to be hoped that it will be found possible to make a limited allocation to schools during the next financial year.

Tents

The Committee's tents were in full demand during the summer months and to a lesser degree at Easter and Whitsuntide. This is an admirable service and the availability of equipment does much to encourage the organisation of school and youth service camps.

The Further Training of Teachers

The 16th Annual Easter Vacation School of Physical Education organised by the North-Western Counties' Physical Education Association was again held here in Blackpool through the co-operation of the Education Committee. In all, more than 450 teachers attended the many courses such as Physical Education at Primary and Secondary levels, Dancing, Games, Athletics, Boxing, Canoeing.

Blackpool and Fylde Physical Education Association

Under the auspices of the Blackpool Education Committee courses were held in Lawn Tennis Umpiring and the teaching of swimming including the methods used for beginners and advanced pupils. In addition a one-day course for teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools was held at Arnold Girls' School. This course showed the development and progression of movement principles with special emphasis on the use of small apparatus.

Remedials

During the summer term an experimental class in swimming was started by the Woman Organiser for handicapped pupils from the Open Air School. Due to the splendid co-operation of the Baths Superintendent and School Medical Officer, the staff of the school and parents, the result was an outstanding success.

Cavalcade of Sport

The 4th Annual Cavalcade of Sport was again held before enthusiastic audiences at the Tower Circus during March. A new innovation was a matinee performance for school-children. This was an unqualified success. The programme consisted as usual of a wide variety of sporting items and the standards achieved reflected the hard work of the teachers concerned. The Cavalcade of Sport is rapidly becoming a well-established highlight of the educational year and is entirely due to the goodwill of the Head Teachers, Staffs, parents and children and, by no means least, to those members of the public who are always prepared to help any function connected with the schools.

The Blackpool Schools' Sports Council, which is the co-ordinating body for all Inter-Schools Sports in Blackpool, continues to function and play a prominent part in the sporting life of Blackpool school-children. During the course of the year the Annual Handbook was published, a copy of which was sent to every member of the Education Committee.

At the Annual General Meeting, held in April, it was decided to invite the constituent associations to make use of medals of the same basic design approved by the Council. At this meeting also a presentation was made to Mr. J. G. Lewis in recognition of his valuable service to the Council during his years in Blackpool as Organiser of Physical Education.

REPORTS OF CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS— BLACKPOOL SCHOOLS' SPORTS COUNCIL

Athletics—Secondary Schools

The pattern of activities in 1955 has been very similar to that of previous years. We have been concerned in the main with the organisation of the Town Sports and the sending of representative teams to the County

Sports. The Annual Triangular match was held at Blackburn and parties of spectators were accompanied to the National Sports in Manchester.

Into our organisation this year we have been pleased to welcome four new schools, namely, Bailey, Elmslie, Hodgson and St. Joseph's College.

We were extremely fortunate in having glorious weather throughout the athletics' season. The Town Sports again went off extremely well and no less than 20 records were broken, which suggests that standards continue to improve.

RESULT OF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Junior Champions	Boys—Palatine Girls—Tyldesley
Intermediate Champions	Boys—Palatine Girls—Highfield
Senior Champions	Boys—Grammar Girls—Arnold

The County Sports were held once more at the White City Stadium in Manchester and full teams were sent from this Association. Although no championships were won we finished runners-up on no less than four occasions. From the results of this meeting five girls and four boys were chosen to represent Lancashire in the National Championships at Belle Vue, Manchester, in July.

We were fortunate this year in being able to see the National Sports at Manchester. School parties were taken on both heats and finals days and first-class athletics was enjoyed by all in spite of the sweltering heat. We were all particularly delighted by the success of E. Martlew who had the unusual honour of gaining two winner's medals, one in the 150 yards Junior Girls, and the other as a member of the Lancashire Junior Relay team. Last year a Blackpool girl won the Intermediate 100 yards—two national sprint champions in successive years—a remarkable achievement and a glowing tribute to the coaches responsible for the training of these girls. Other fine achievements were those of J. McNeal, 2nd in the Boys' Intermediate High Jump; I. Stewart, 6th in the Boys' Intermediate 440 yards; and J. Davies, a member of the winning Lancashire Senior Boys' relay team. Standard medals were also awarded to J. Williams, Intermediate Girls' Long Jump, and V. Clarke, Intermediate Girls' Hurdles.

Athletics—Junior Schools

The Annual Junior Schools' Sports Meeting for 1955 was held at Hawes Side School on Wednesday, 13th July. Twenty-two schools took part in the 44 events and approximately 2,000 spectators, mostly children watched the march past of competitors. The salute was taken by Alderman E. Furness (Chairman of Primary Education) and Mr. F. E. Harrison (Chief Education Officer) presented certificates and trophies.

A new and extremely successful feature this year was a display of Country Dancing given by the children. In addition to being a splendid spectacle this item had the added advantage of bringing into active participation another 200 children.

Preliminary heats were held before the final day on 4th July.

Winners of trophies were as follows:—

Girls	Winner	Runner-up
3rd year	St. Columba's (17 p.)	Stanley (16 p.)
4th year	Claremont (13 p.)	Devonshire (8 p.)
Champion School	Stanley (22 p.)	St. Columba's (21 p.)
Boys		
3rd year	Layton (9 p.)	Hawes Side (8 p.)
4th year	Layton (17 p.)	Roseacre (9 p.)
Champion School	Layton (26 p.)	Roseacre (14 p.)

Cricket—Secondary Schools

Only seven schools entered teams in the league this season; Hodgson Secondary Modern School withdrew due to reduced numbers of boys available.

On the whole a good season's League cricket was played; Palatine Secondary Technical School finished as league champions.

The representative side again had a very successful season and were very unlucky to be beaten in the semi-final of the County Championship. This is a remarkable performance in that this is the third consecutive year in which Blackpool have reached the semi-final of this competition. Our home games were marred by the fact that this Association could not find a pitch suitable for the high class of the fixtures. Our away games were played on the pitches of leading Lancashire league cricket clubs.

Two Blackpool boys were selected to play for the North Lancashire team v. South Lancashire, and one, B. Holland (Claremont) was twelfth man for the County team.

Football—Secondary Schools

Nine schools (six Blackpool and three County) enter 43 teams in five competitions which cater for all age groups. Over 500 boys are able to play for their school in a representative school team. The five trophies are at present held by five different schools—a healthy state of affairs.

Age	Competition	Cup	Present Holders
15	League (Autumn term)	Greaves	Palatine
15	League (Spring term)	Hanslip	Bailey
14	Knock-out tournament	Blackpool F.C.	Highfield
13	League	Parr	Tyldesley
12	Knock-out tournament	"Evening Gazette"	Claremont

Highfield is still the only secondary school in Blackpool with its own football pitch. Two other schools make use of the grounds adjoining Hawes Side and Norbreck Primary Schools. Seventy-five per cent of school games, however, must still be played on the public parks' pitches which are normally unfit for schoolboy football in mid-season as they are insufficiently drained and overworked.

The dry weather so far this season has resulted in all the parks' pitches remaining fit for play. Schools have taken this opportunity to arrange extra friendly matches and have often fielded four or even five teams on Saturday mornings, instead of the normal two league teams. It is hoped that as the L.E.A.'s plans for the provision of school playing fields are put into effect it will be possible to meet this enthusiastic demand for schoolboy football throughout every season instead of only during abnormally dry winters.

In the competition between the best school teams from all Lancashire the successes of Blackpool schools indicate that efforts in recent years to provide as much football as possible for all four age groups (as opposed to a single school team) have improved standards. The Divisional Shield has remained in Blackpool for the past four years and Palatine at present hold the *Daily Dispatch* Trophy awarded to the Champion school in the whole of the county.

English Schools' Trophy

Unfortunately the same misfortune happened as last season. We were beaten away in the second divisional round, this time to Lancaster, by 4 goals to 3. On their display the Blackpool team should have entered the third round. It is not surprising though to note that Lancaster have reached the last 16 teams in the Competition Proper.

Lancashire Schools' Cup

Having a bye in the first round we travelled to West Lancashire and won a hard-fought game. Our third round opponents were the favourites of the competition, Blackburn, and once more we suffered another setback by having to travel. In a game said by the Press to be one of the best schoolboy matches to be seen, we forced the home side to a 4-goal draw. In the replay, however, at Blackpool, Blackburn proved to be worthy winners.

Friendly Matches

Apart from practice matches against Palatine School XI's we had an inter-town match with South Fylde but, unfortunately, they proved to be very weak opposition. It is hoped in the second half of the season to introduce next year's town team against Bolton, Preston, and Crosby and Litherland town teams. This, however, depends upon the smooth running of our inter-school's programme and the *Daily Dispatch* representative team's progress.

County Honours

J. Shorrocks, R. Booth (Highfield), J. Taylor (St. John Vianney), I. Pennington (Palatine) were selected for county trials.

Daily Dispatch Shield Competition

Palatine School won the right to represent Blackpool in this competition and show every chance of again completing the Shield and Trophy double.

General Remarks

Our season has not been as successful as we hoped, nevertheless our team has set a good example of schoolboy football and shown true sportsmanship both on and off the field. The present standard of third-year school football has reached a very high one and the future town team looks as though Blackpool again will be pressing for honours in the major competitions as we did three seasons ago.

Acknowledgments

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Blackpool Education Committee for the loan of their ground at Hawes Side. To the directors of the Blackpool Football Club for their generous supplies of tickets to their matches. We must thank Mr. F. E. Harrison, our Chief Education Officer, as well as our Organisers of Physical Education, Miss H. P. Chambers and Mr. N. W. Broughton, for their willingness and co-operation in our interests. Mr. F. E. Harrison carries our best wishes for a happy retirement. Thanks, too, go to Mr. Saunders, groundsman at Hawes Side School, and to the kitchen staff of Highfield School, to Mr. C. Greenwood of the *Evening Gazette*, together with the help accorded us by all referees and linesmen who have officiated during the season.

Finally may I express sincere appreciation of the co-operation and help given by Heads of Schools, the Chairman, Committee, and members of the Association; such friendly and willing assistance has made the first half of the season a very pleasant one indeed.

Football—Primary Schools

In Primary School Football three leagues were run during the 1954-55 season as follows: North Section, South Section and Primary League. Schools are zoned by their league, thus avoiding too much travelling for junior boys on Saturday mornings. The zoning is not possible in the Minor League, but the aim behind this league is to enable small and new schools to meet teams of approximately equal standard.

The top two teams of the North Section meet the top two teams of the South Section for the semi-final of the Mather Shield. The final is then played by the two victorious teams and the winners hold the shield for 12 months. The top team of the Minor League holds the Minor League Trophy for 12 months.

The knock-out competition is for the Hampson Shield.

Inter-town matches were played against South Fylde and Blackburn.

Weather conditions during the season were very trying for juniors, but the only part of the season's programme not completed were the inter-town games against Fleetwood.

A full programme is once again in full swing for the present (1955-56) season.

Swimming

Nineteen hundred and fifty-five has been yet another year of outstanding success.

Ten new records including four in the Butterfly events were set up at the Inter-Schools' Gala in October, the standard of swimming at this gala is now so high that the breaking of a record is a real achievement. Highfield Boys and Claremont Girls won the respective Championship Trophies in the 11-15 years group.

The Blackpool team in the Lancashire Schools' Championships (11-18 years) gained six 1st places, five being in record time and 12 other placings to finish 2nd in the overall team placings to our great rival, Manchester. In the 13-15 years' group we were actually 1st out of 23 competing teams.

Three of our boys and four girls gained Lancashire County caps against Cheshire in September and Yorkshire in October, helping Lancashire to win both contests.

Three Blackpool boys and three girls went on further to the English Schools' Championships in October at Bromley, representing Division 2 (Lancashire and Cheshire). Anne Morton won the Butterfly and Margaret Grundy the Breast Stroke event, whilst Roger Loveman was runner-up in the boys' Breast Stroke. These three together with Bill Wing were also members of winning relays.

Anne Morton's selection for England and Great Britain makes a quartet of Blackpool school-children who have gained international caps in post-war years, the others, of course, being Malcolm Butler, Trevis Wilson and Margaret Grundy. We are very proud of them all.

Netball, Secondary Girls

Since the commencement of the netball season in September, the six schools in the league have each played five matches—one each week. Competition has been keen and the games have been played in an atmosphere of sportsmanship.

At this stage Tyldesley School are leading with 30 points, both teams having won all their matches. Runners-up are Hodgson School who have gained 22 points.

LEAGUE POSITIONS

School	Maximum Points	Points Gained
Tyldesley	30	30
Hodgson	30	22
Highfield	30	18
Bailey	30	12
Claremont	30	8
Thames Road	30	0

Conclusion

A great deal has been achieved during the year and Head Teachers, staffs and pupils are to be congratulated. It is extremely gratifying and encouraging to be able to record that all suggestions made by the Organisers are given the utmost consideration by both the Education Committee and Head Teachers without whose support nothing could be accomplished.

During the course of the year Mr. J. G. Lewis left the employment of the Authority after 11 years' service to take up a post of Senior Lecturer at Loughborough Training College. Mr. Lewis will long be remembered in Blackpool for his energy and enthusiasm and for his unsparing efforts in the cause of Physical Education.

In conclusion the Organisers wish to tender their sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Education Committee, the Parks Committee (Mr. N. Leach), the Baths Committee (Mr. J. H. Hollingworth), the Tower and Winter Gardens Company (Mr. W. J. McGinty), the Senior Assistant School Medical Officer, Her Majesty's Inspectors of Physical Education (Miss R. N. Dewey and Mr. E. E. Barnard) and the directors of the Blackpool Football Club.

Finally, the Organisers wish to record their sincere appreciation of all the help given by the Chief Education Officer and his office staff, the Head Teachers and members of the teaching staff, without whose help no lasting success could be achieved.

H. P. CHAMBERS

N. W. BROUGHTON

Education Department,
Blackpool.

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